

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of April 9, 2007 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

In the Office Action, Claims 9 and 21 were objected to. Claims 9 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 13, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 1-3, 6, 9, 13-15, 18-21, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,864,814 to Yamazaki (hereinafter Yamazaki). Claims 4, 10-12, 16, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of U.S. Patent 5,842,167 to Miyatake, *et al.* (hereinafter Miyatake). Claims 5, 7, 8, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Miyatake, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,366,883 to Campbell, *et al.* (hereinafter Campbell).

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 13, and 25 to further emphasize certain aspects of the invention. Applicants also have amended dependent Claims 8, 9, 20, and 21 to emphasize certain additional aspects of the invention and to maintain consistency among the claims. The claim amendments also address the objection and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have added newly-presented Claim 26. Dependent Claims 4-8, 11, 12, 16-19, 23, and 24 have been cancelled. The claim amendments and newly-presented Claim 26 are fully supported throughout the Specification. No new matter has been introduced by virtue of the claim amendments.

As already noted, independent Claims 1, 13, and 25 were rejected as being anticipated by Yamazaki. Yamazaki is directed to a system and method for "generating a

voice." (See Abstract.) Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Yamazaki fails to teach, expressly or inherently, every feature recited in Claims 1, 13, and 25, as amended.

Applicants first note that Yamazaki does not receive textual input and generate from the input synthesized audio as recited in the amended claims. Instead, Yamazaki receives "voice generating information." (See Col. 10, lines 15-23.) Yamazaki's voice generating information is explicitly described as

" comprising discrete voice data for either one of or both velocity and pitch of a voice correlated to a time lag between each discrete voice data as well as to a type of a voice tone, and made by dispensing each discrete data for either one of or both velocity and pitch of a voice so that the voice data is not dependent on a time lag between phonemes and at the same time present at a level relative to a reference." (Col. 10, lines 15-23.)

Accordingly, Yamazaki fails to teach this feature, as recited in amended Claims 1, 13, and 25.

Yamazaki also fails to teach the step of displaying, along with a waveform corresponding to synthesized audio, phonetic unit labels that are electronically generated without additional user input, as also recited in amended Claims 1, 13, and 25. Instead, any such labels that Yamazaki is believed to supply are supplied by a user, who must enter the labels manually:

"In the next step S104, to set a duration length of each phoneme in relation to the original waveform displayed on the original waveform display window 25B, labels each separating phonemes from each other along the direction of a time axis are given through a manual operation. Each of the

labels can be given by moving the cursor on the display screen by, for instance, operating the key entry section 29 to the inside of the synthesized waveform display located under the original waveform display window 25B to specify the label at a desired position. In this case, the label position can easily be specified by using an input device such as a mouse."

* * * * *

"In a case where the inputted natural voice is Japanese, also in the subsequent step S105, phonemes (characters) of Japanese are inputted into the phoneme display window 25A. Also in this case, like in a case of giving a label, phonemes are inputted with the key entry section 29 through a manual operation, and each phoneme is set in each of spaces separated from each other with a label within the phoneme display window 25A." (Col. 26, lines 1-8.) (Emphasis supplied.)

Likewise, Yamazaki fails to teach a technique for the correction of phonetic unit boundaries, as further recited in amended Claims 1, 13, and 25. Specifically, Yamazaki does not provide any type of correction to phonetic unit boundaries. With Yamazaki, these boundaries are supplied by input entered by a user as part of the creation of the voice-generation file.

Accordingly, Yamazaki fails to teach, expressly or inherently, each feature recited in independent Claims 1, 13, and 25. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that Claims 1, 13, and 25 define over the prior art. Applicants further respectfully submit that whereas each of the remaining claims depends from Claim 1, 13, or 25, these claims likewise define over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMAN SENTERFITT



Gregory A. Nelson, Registration No. 30,577

Richard A. Hinson, Registration No. 47,652

Customer No. 40987

Post Office Box 3188

West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188

Telephone: (561) 653-5000

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